

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

November 2008

Third District, County of San Diego

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County Adjusting To Economic Realities

Will Likely Mean Cuts

The nation's economic downturn, combined with the state's lingering fiscal crisis, is having a serious impact on local governments. The Board of Supervisors is closely following these ever-changing developments, especially since the State of California in early November forecasted a deficit of at least \$10 billion and the governor is recommending drastic state cuts.

"Now is the time for ultra-prudent governance, to carefully and as accurately as possible estimate how outside factors could impact the county's revenue sources," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "The recession we are facing is forcing all of us to do more with less. This board is committed to providing first-class services and protecting the quality-of-life residents enjoy. Howev-



er, we are entering a period of economic uncertainty, and that means closely watching how dollars are spent to make sure vital services are properly funded."

Supervisor Slater-Price added that one
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Fire Season Is Tamed By Airborne Resources

As winter approaches, the 2008 wildfire season appears to be a mild one. Still, quick action by firefighters supported by water-dropping helicopters and the county-leased Superscoopers saved numerous homes when Santa Ana-driven flames endangered neighborhoods in Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, University City and Oceanside.

"The ability to fight these wildfires at night is extremely important," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who promoted the legislative effort to authorize the night-flying aerial attacks. "For successfully fighting a wildfire you need two things - speed and resources. Surrendering the ability to combat such fires at night proved to be costly and dangerous."

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BOOK IT IN DEL MAR

City and county officials and members of the Friends of the Del Mar Library broke ground on a 500-square-foot community room (left). Supervisor Pam Slater-Price committed \$200,000 in county funds toward the construction. The building on Camino del Mar opened in the 1920s as St. James Catholic Church and has served as a library since 1996. On hand for the occasion are (above, from left): Marion Perlman, Friends of the Del Mar Library; Jose Aponte, county Director of Library Services; Pat Freeman, Friends of the Del Mar Library; Supervisor Pam Slater-Price; Del Mar Mayor Dave Druker; Barbara Myers, president, Friends of the Del Mar Library; Bill Michalsky, Friends of the Del Mar Library.

San Diego County Is A Repeat Winner

Winning becomes contagious when you are the County of San Diego, which was honored again by the Government Finance Officers Association with a "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award."

More than 3,600 governmental entities participate in the awards competition, which encourages municipalities to prepare and issue "comprehensive annual financial reports of the highest quality" so that citizens and watchdog organizations have immediate access to pertinent financial data. Citizens see that their governmental leaders are accountable with their tax dollars. Awards have been issued annually since 1984.

"Credit-rating bureaus recognize the importance of properly produced, detailed budgets and related documents," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "I am proud that the County of San Diego is a repeat winner of this honor."

AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

News of Note

Nationwide Honor Comes To San Diego For Foster Program

The County of San Diego has actively searched out for families looking to add a child to their lives. This successful effort has garnered nationwide attention, earning the county Health and Human Services Agency a 2008 "Adoptions Excellence" award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Author Series Slated

Award-winning author Victor Villaseñor of Oceanside will be making two guest appearances as part of the San Diego County Library "Meet & Greet" series. Villaseñor is the bestselling author of "Rain of Gold," "Burro Genius" and his latest triumph, "Crazy Loco Love."



His appearances are:

- 5:30 p.m. Nov. 17, Spring Valley branch library, 836 Kempton St., (619) 463-3006.
- 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8, Imperial Beach branch library, 810 Imperial Beach Blvd., (619) 424-6981.

Infected Mouse Warning Issued

A wild mouse trapped at the west side of Mission Trails Regional Park in Tierrasanta has tested positive for Hantavirus. It is the fourth case this year; typically, San Diego County confirms between two and eight cases annually.

Hantavirus is carried by wild rodents, primarily deer mice. It is found in rodent droppings and urine and can be inhaled by humans when it becomes airborne. The airborne virus can cause Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS), which in extreme cases can be fatal.

Solutions to treating suspected rodent droppings can be found on the Vector Control website at www.sdvector.com.



SUPPORT IS GAME-ON!

Bruce Binkowski, executive director of the Holiday and Poinsettia collegiate football bowls, presented Supervisor Pam Slater-Price with a plaque in appreciation highlighting her years of support for the bowl games that brings thousands of fans from across the nation to San Diego each December. Tourism helps San Diego's economy.

E.coli Outbreak Warning

An outbreak of *E.coli* infection has been uncovered in Carmel Valley, in the Third District. Two girls, ages 7 and 9, who attend Carmel Creek Elementary School, have been hospitalized and, fortunately, are expected to make a complete recovery.

The source of the outbreak has yet to be identified; two county agencies - Department of Environmental Health and Health and Human Services - are leading the effort to identify the source of the *E.coli* and contain the outbreak.

"*E.coli* is a dangerous bacterium that is traditionally associated with contaminated food," explained Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "Considering the serious health threat *E.coli* poses to this age group, we must stop it now. Our health officials have mechanisms in place to help prevent further spread of the illness."

E. coli infection often causes abdominal cramps and bloody diarrhea. There is usually little or no fever, and the illness typically resolves itself in five to 10 days. A small percentage of infected individuals may also develop a condition in which red blood cells are destroyed and kidney failure may occur. Those most at risk for serious complications of this food-borne ill-

ness include young children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.

"The school has not been named as the source, and we appreciate their cooperation during this investigation," said Dr. Wilma Wooten, the county's Public Health Officer. "We emphasize to the public that it is critical to practice appropriate food safety habits and good hand hygiene to prevent infectious diseases like *E.coli* from spreading."

E.coli can be attributed to many sources, including lettuce, raw milk, unpasteurized apple cider, or from petting zoos and animal exhibits. Undercooked hamburger is another possible source. For more information on *E.coli*, and how to protect yourself and your family, contact the county Community Epidemiology branch at (619) 515-6620.

An outbreak of *E.coli*-contaminated hamburgers in the 1990s resulted in stronger standards being adopted for the reporting of suspected cases of *E.coli* as well as standardized cooking practices for restaurants and fast-food eateries. Supervisor Slater-Price spearheaded several of these efforts, including working with local Assembly representatives to modify state law.

AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT



DISTRICT ATTORNEYS HONOR SLATER-PRICE

Accepting the honor of "Legislator of the Year" for her work to reduce incidents of domestic violence, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (above right) is congratulated by presenter Michael Groch and the more than 175 people who attended the annual Deputy

District Attorney Awards Ceremony. Congratulating Supervisor Slater-Price on receiving her honor are David White and DA Human Resources Director Cheryl Ruffier (above left), and Deputy DA Wendy Patrick Mazzarell (below left).



SMILES IN ENCINITAS

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price joined the Encinitas City Council and developer John DeWald to break ground for Pacific Station, a commercial and residential complex on South Coast Highway 101 at the site of a former newspaper-printing plant. Preparing for the ceremonial turning over of the first spade of ground are, from left, Encinitas council members James Bond, Maggie Houlihan and Teresa Barth; Supervisor Slater-Price; Pacific Station developer John DeWald; Scott Kelly, vice president of John DeWald and Associates; Encinitas Councilman Dan Dalager and Mayor Jerome Stocks.

AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

FIRE

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Supervisor Slater-Price complimented the role the county-leased Superscoopers had in quickly subduing several of the fires.

However, she cautioned that the planes are very expensive to lease - the county paid the government of Quebec more than \$3 million for the 90-day fire season that begins in late September - and that other municipalities need to be part of the solution as the County of San Diego cannot afford to be the sole provider of this service.

"Voters spoke when they did not pass the proposed parcel tax that would have dedicated funds for firefighting equipment and personnel," she explained. "We are in very volatile economic times. Families are worried about losing jobs. Seniors are worried if their pension will last through retirement."

"The County of San Diego is already looking at losing between \$14 million and \$22 million in Prop 172 funding due to reduced consumer spending. And we have let to learn how much less the county will receive this year versus last year in property taxes."

FISCAL

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of the primary budgetary problems fac-

"We are in very volatile economic times. Families are worried about losing a job. Seniors are worried if their pension will last through retirement."

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

ing the County of San Diego is the state's habit of forcing unfunded mandates on local governments. State funding will be cut and the Supervisors will meet to make adjustments.

"Many people do not realize how these mandates impact what the Board of Supervisors can do. This county has a budget of \$5.2 billion that is balanced and contains a prudent reserve. But we are forced by the Legislature to pay for programs that are not fully reimbursed. For example, in the 2008-09 state bud-

et, funding previously available through the Mentally III Offender Crime Reduction Grant is eliminated. The Legislature stated its intent is 'counties to consider ways to provide services to those established pursuant to the (grant) using Mental Health Act funds.' This pass-the-buck approach occurs over and over.

Another example involves how counties are mandated to offer health services through the state's Medi-Cal program. The final budget reduced the possible reimbursements for such services by more than \$106 million. Yet the County of San Diego still is required to administer these services."

Supervisor Slater-Price said property taxes are down. Proposition 172 money has fallen dramatically. Yet expenses keep going up.

As the nation and the region readjusts to the new economic realities, Supervisor Slater-Price said that county government will do its part to continue providing necessary services. But she cautioned that cuts are necessary. The Board of Supervisors will begin looking at options.

"When I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors, I pledged to bring sound financial principles to county government," she said. "Those principles are even more important today."

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